

HOMICIDE CRIMES (Part 1)



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HOMICIDE CRIMES

Homicide is defined by the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program as the "willful (nonnegligent) killing of one human being by another." The homicide category comprises murder and nonnegligent manslaughter. Attempted murder, justifiable homicide, manslaughter by negligence, and suicide are excluded. Data depicting homicide in California have been collected and published for over 45 years.

From 1998 to 1999:

- The homicide rate per 100,000 population decreased 9.2 percent (6.5 to 5.9).
- The number of homicides decreased 7.6 percent (from 2,170 to 2,006).

Comparing 1990 to 1999:

- The homicide rate per 100,000 population decreased 51.2 percent (12.1 to 5.9).
- The number of homicides decreased 43.7 percent (from 3,562 to 2,006).

Comparing 1952 to 1999:

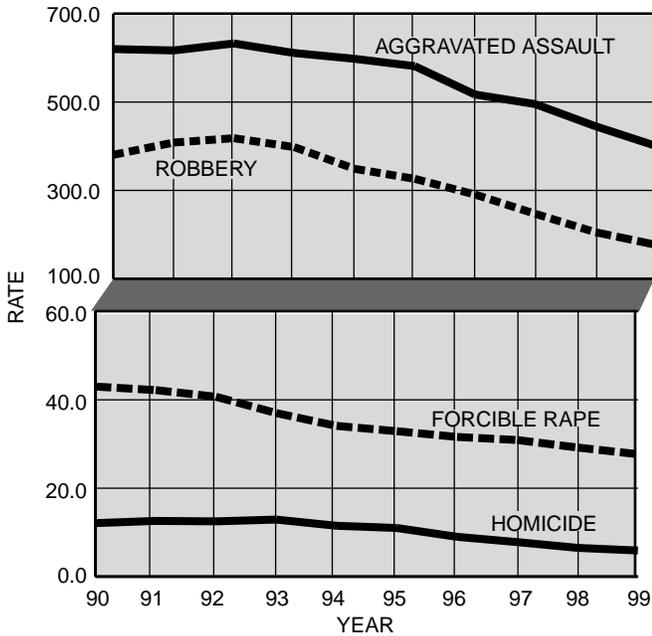
- The homicide rate per 100,000 population increased 145.8 percent (2.4 to 5.9).
- The number of homicides increased 619.0 percent (from 279 to 2,006).

□ **The 1999 homicide rate of 5.9 is the lowest since 1967 and represents the sixth consecutive year of decline.**

Table N-1
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1952-1999
Number and Rate per 100,000 Population

Year(s)	Number	Rate
1999	2,006	5.9
1998	2,170	6.5
1997	2,579	7.8
1996	2,910	9.0
1995	3,530	11.0
1994	3,699	11.5
1993	4,095	12.9
1992	3,920	12.5
1991	3,876	12.6
1990	3,562	12.1
1989	3,159	11.0
1988	2,947	10.5
1987	2,929	10.7
1986	3,030	11.3
1985	2,781	10.7
1984	2,724	10.6
1983	2,640	10.5
1982	2,778	11.3
1981	3,140	13.1
1980	3,405	14.4
1979	2,941	12.6
1978	2,601	11.4
1977	2,481	11.1
1976	2,214	10.1
1975	2,196	10.2
1974	1,970	9.3
1973	1,862	8.9
1972	1,789	8.7
1971	1,633	8.0
1970	1,355	6.8
1969	1,376	6.9
1968	1,171	6.0
1967	1,051	5.4
1966	897	4.7
1965	892	4.8
1964	758	4.2
1963	656	3.7
1962	671	3.9
1961	609	3.7
1960	620	3.9
1959	515	3.4
1958	547	3.7
1957	497	3.5
1956	474	3.5
1955	417	3.2
1954	419	3.3
1953	276	2.3
1952	279	2.4

Chart 1
 VIOLENT CRIMES, 1990-1999
 Rate per 100,000 Population



Source: Table 1.

There are four offenses classified as violent crimes by the FBI: homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. For comparison, changes in the rates of the four offenses follow:

From 1998 to 1999:

- Homicide decreased 9.2 percent (6.5 to 5.9).
- Forcible rape decreased 5.1 percent (29.2 to 27.7).
- Robbery decreased 14.1 percent (205.3 to 176.4).
- Aggravated assault decreased 10.0 percent (445.1 to 400.7).

Comparing 1990 to 1999:

- Homicide decreased 51.2 percent (12.1 to 5.9).
- Forcible rape decreased 35.6 percent (43.0 to 27.7).
- Robbery decreased 53.6 percent (380.5 to 176.4).
- Aggravated assault decreased 35.4 percent (619.8 to 400.7).

☐ **Of the four offenses classified as violent crimes by the FBI, homicide maintained the lowest rate per 100,000 population for the years shown.**

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Charts 2, 3, and 4 display homicide rates per 100,000 population for victims classified by gender, race/ethnic group, and age.

In 1999,

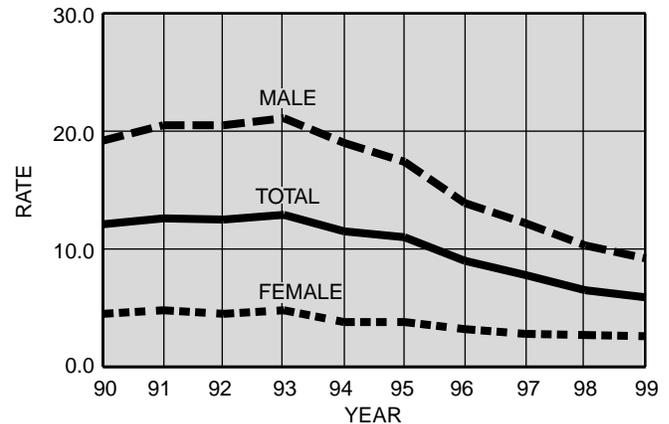
- The total homicide rate was 5.9 per 100,000 population.
- The male homicide rate was over three and one-half times that of the female homicide rate (9.2 vs. 2.6).
- The black homicide rate was over eight times that of whites and almost two and one-half times that of Hispanics (21.0 vs. 2.6 and 8.8, respectively).

Comparing 1990 to 1999:

- The male homicide rate decreased 52.1 percent. The female homicide rate decreased 42.2 percent.
- The white homicide rate decreased 49.0 percent, the Hispanic homicide rate decreased 54.4 percent, and the black homicide rate decreased 56.3 percent.

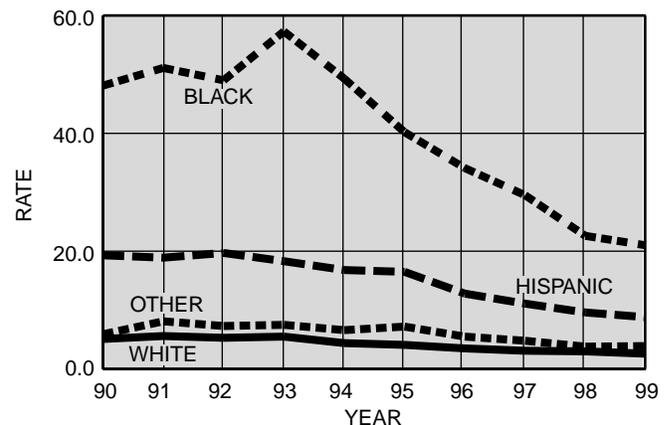
□ Since 1990, homicide rates have decreased for all gender and race/ethnic groups shown. Blacks experienced the highest rate of decline (down 56.3 percent) but continue to maintain substantially higher homicide victimization rates compared to whites and Hispanics.

Chart 2
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1990-1999
By Gender of Victim
Rate per 100,000 Population



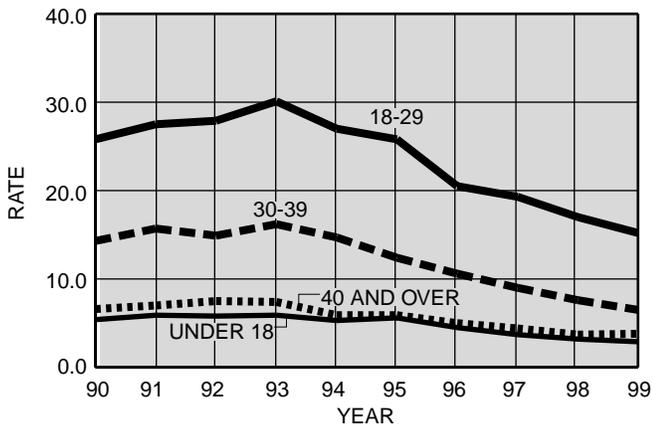
Source: Table 2.

Chart 3
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1990-1999
By Race/Ethnic Group of Victim
Rate per 100,000 Population



Source: Table 3.

Chart 4
 HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1990-1999
 By Age of Victim
 Rate per 100,000 Population



Source: Table 4.

In 1999,

- Persons aged 18-29 had the highest homicide victimization rate (15.2 per 100,000 population).

Comparing 1990 to 1999:

- The homicide rate decreased 46.3 percent for victims under age 18, 41.1 percent for victims aged 18-29, 54.5 percent for victims aged 30-39, and 42.4 percent for victims aged 40 and over.

- Since 1990, homicide rates have decreased for all age categories shown. Persons aged 18-29, however, continue to maintain the highest homicide victimization rate (in 1999, the rate was five times that of victims under age 18, two times that of victims aged 30-39, and four times that of victims aged 40 and over).

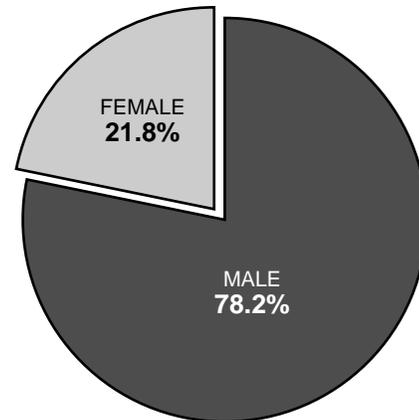
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In 1999,

- Males represented 78.2 percent of total homicide victims; they comprised 50.2 percent of the population.
- Females represented 21.8 percent of total homicide victims; they comprised 49.8 percent of the population.

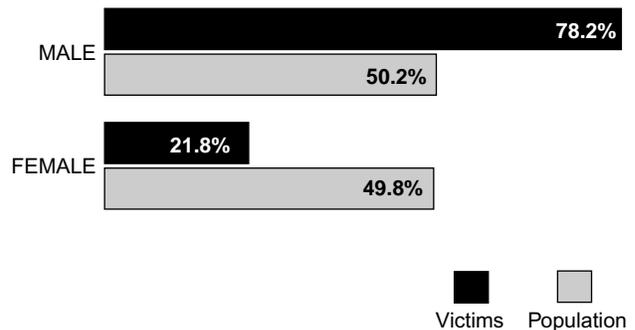
□ **As homicide victims, males are statistically over-represented when compared to females.**

Chart 5
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1999
By Gender of Victim



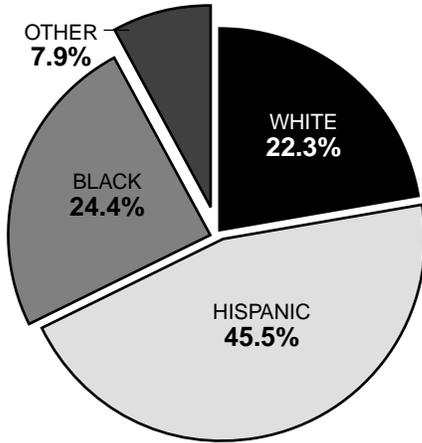
Source: Table 5.

Chart 6
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1999
Gender of Victim by Percent of Total Victims
and Percent of Population



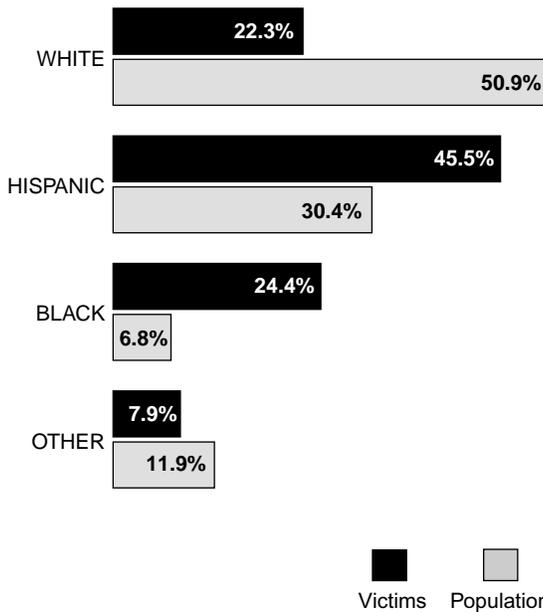
Sources: Table 2 and Table 5.

Chart 7
 HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1999
 By Race/Ethnic Group of Victim



Source: Table 6.
 Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of independent rounding.

Chart 8
 HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1999
 Race/Ethnic Group of Victim by Percent of Total Victims and Percent of Population



Sources: Table 3 and Table 6.
 Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of independent rounding.

In 1999,

- Whites represented 22.3 percent of total homicide victims; they comprised 50.9 percent of the population.
- Hispanics represented 45.5 percent of total homicide victims; they comprised 30.4 percent of the population.
- Blacks represented 24.4 percent of total homicide victims; they comprised 6.8 percent of the population.
- The “other” race/ethnic group category represented 7.9 percent of total homicide victims; they comprised 11.9 percent of the population.

□ As homicide victims, Hispanics and blacks are statistically over-represented when compared to the white and “other” race/ethnic group categories.

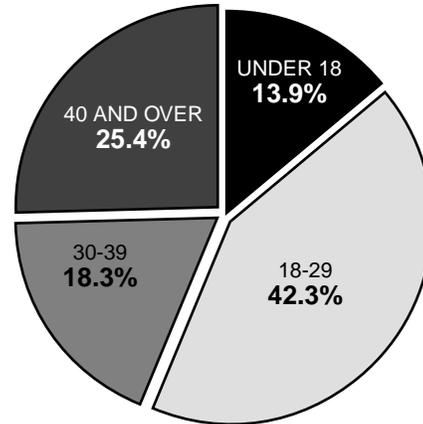
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In 1999,

- Victims under age 18 represented 13.9 percent of total homicides; this age group comprised 28.1 percent of the population.
- Victims aged 18-29 represented 42.3 percent of total homicides; this age group comprised 16.2 percent of the population.
- Victims aged 30-39 represented 18.3 percent of total homicides; this age group comprised 16.5 percent of the population.
- Victims aged 40 and over represented 25.4 percent of total homicides; this age group comprised 39.2 percent of the population.

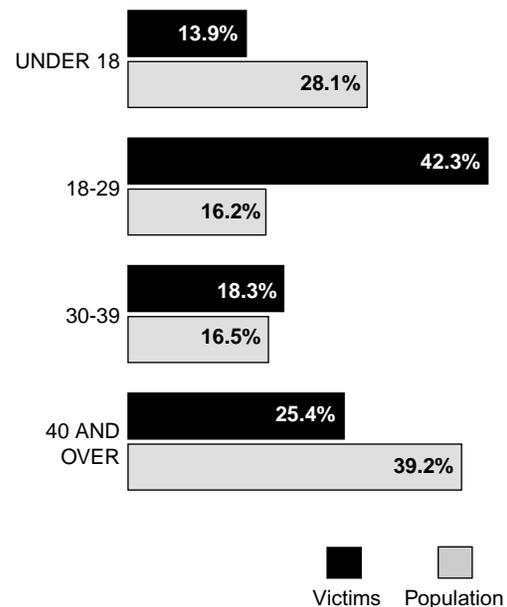
□ **Persons aged 18-29 display the greatest disparity between proportion of population and proportion of homicide victimization.**

Chart 9
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1999
By Age of Victim



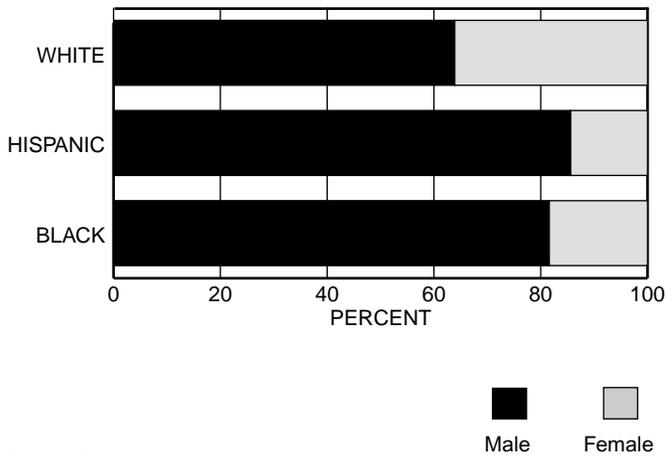
Source: Table 7.
Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of independent rounding.

Chart 10
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1999
Age of Victim by Percent of Total Victims and Percent of Population



Sources: Table 4 and Table 7.
Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 because of independent rounding.

Chart 11
 HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1999
 Race/Ethnic Group of Victim by Gender of Victim

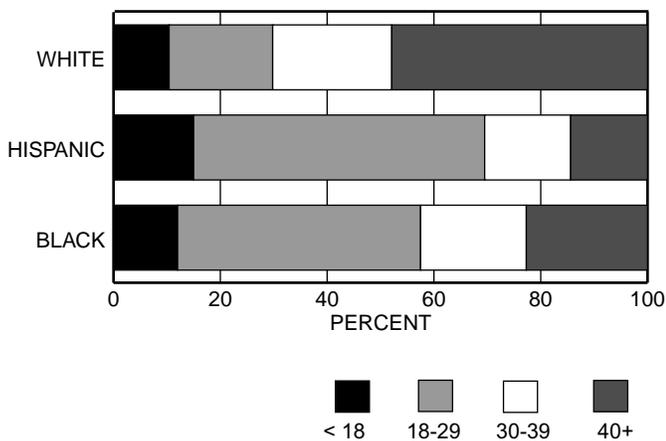


Source: Table 8.

In 1999,

- More white victims were female than were either Hispanic or black victims (36.1 vs. 14.4 and 18.4 percent, respectively).
- More Hispanic and black victims were aged 18-29 than were white victims (54.5 and 45.5 vs. 19.4 percent, respectively).
- More white victims were aged 40 and over than were either Hispanic or black victims (47.9 vs. 14.4 and 22.7 percent, respectively).

Chart 12
 HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1999
 Race/Ethnic Group of Victim by Age of Victim



Source: Table 9.

□ Over one-third of white victims were female. Additionally, white victims tended to be older, Hispanic and black victims younger.

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When homicides were examined by the relationship of the victim to the offender, it was found that:

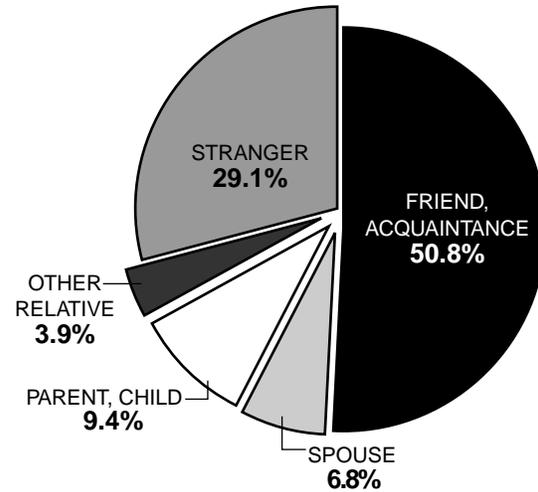
In 1999,

- 50.8 percent of victims were friends or acquaintances of offenders.
- 6.8 percent of victims were spouses of offenders.
- 9.4 percent of victims were parents or children of offenders.
- 3.9 percent of the relationships of victim to offender fell into the "other relative" category.
- 29.1 percent of victims were strangers to offenders.

Comparing 1990 to 1999:

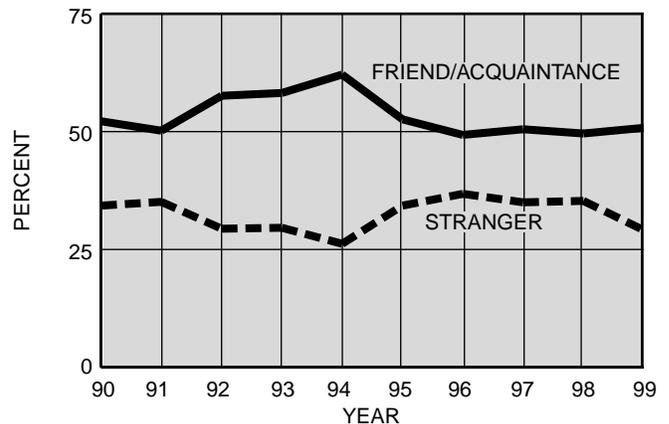
- The proportion of homicides in which victims were friends or acquaintances of offenders decreased from 52.2 percent in 1990 to 50.8 percent in 1999.
- The proportion of homicides in which victims were strangers to offenders decreased from 34.3 percent in 1990 to 29.1 percent in 1999.

Chart 13
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1999
By Relationship of Victim to Offender



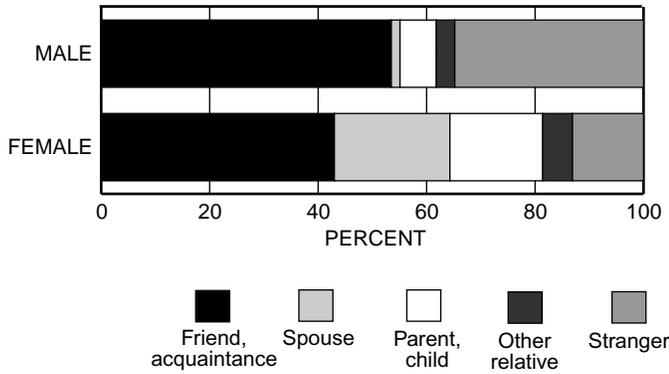
Source: Table 11.

Chart 14
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1990-1999
By Selected Relationships of Victims to Offenders



Source: Table 11.

Chart 15
 HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1999
 Gender of Victim by Relationship of Victim to Offender

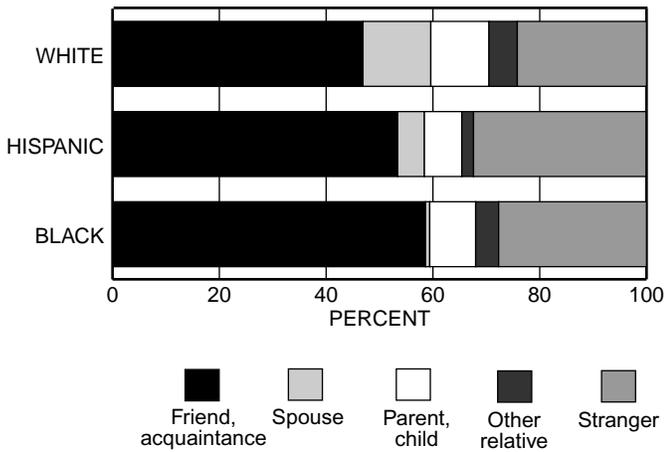


Source: Table 12.

In 1999,

- More female victims were spouses of offenders (21.3 percent) than were male victims (1.6 percent).
- Proportionately, more black victims were friends or acquaintances of offenders than were either white or Hispanic victims (58.6 vs. 46.9 and 53.4 percent, respectively).

Chart 16
 HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1999
 Race/Ethnic Group of Victim by Relationship of Victim to Offender



Source: Table 12.

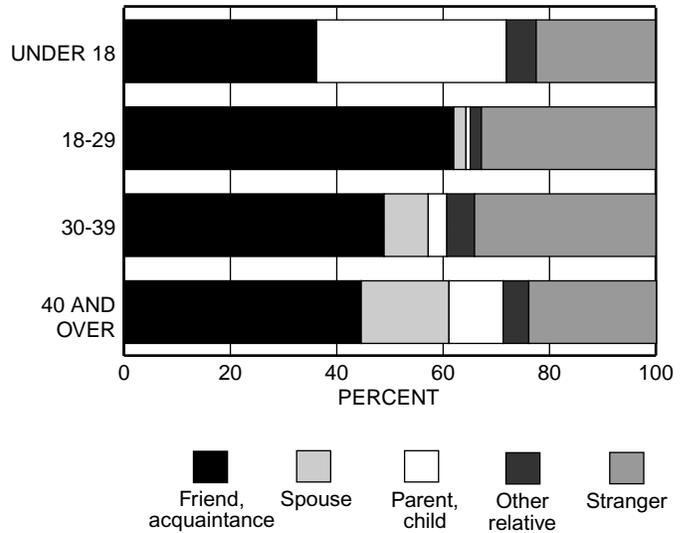
- Proportionately, females were over 13 times more likely to be killed by their spouses than were males.

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In 1999,

- Victims under age 18 were least likely to be strangers to offenders (22.4 percent) than were victims in any other age group shown.
- More victims aged 18-29 were friends or acquaintances of offenders (62.0 percent) than were victims in any other age group shown.
- More victims aged 40 and over were spouses of offenders (16.5 percent) than were victims in any other age group shown.

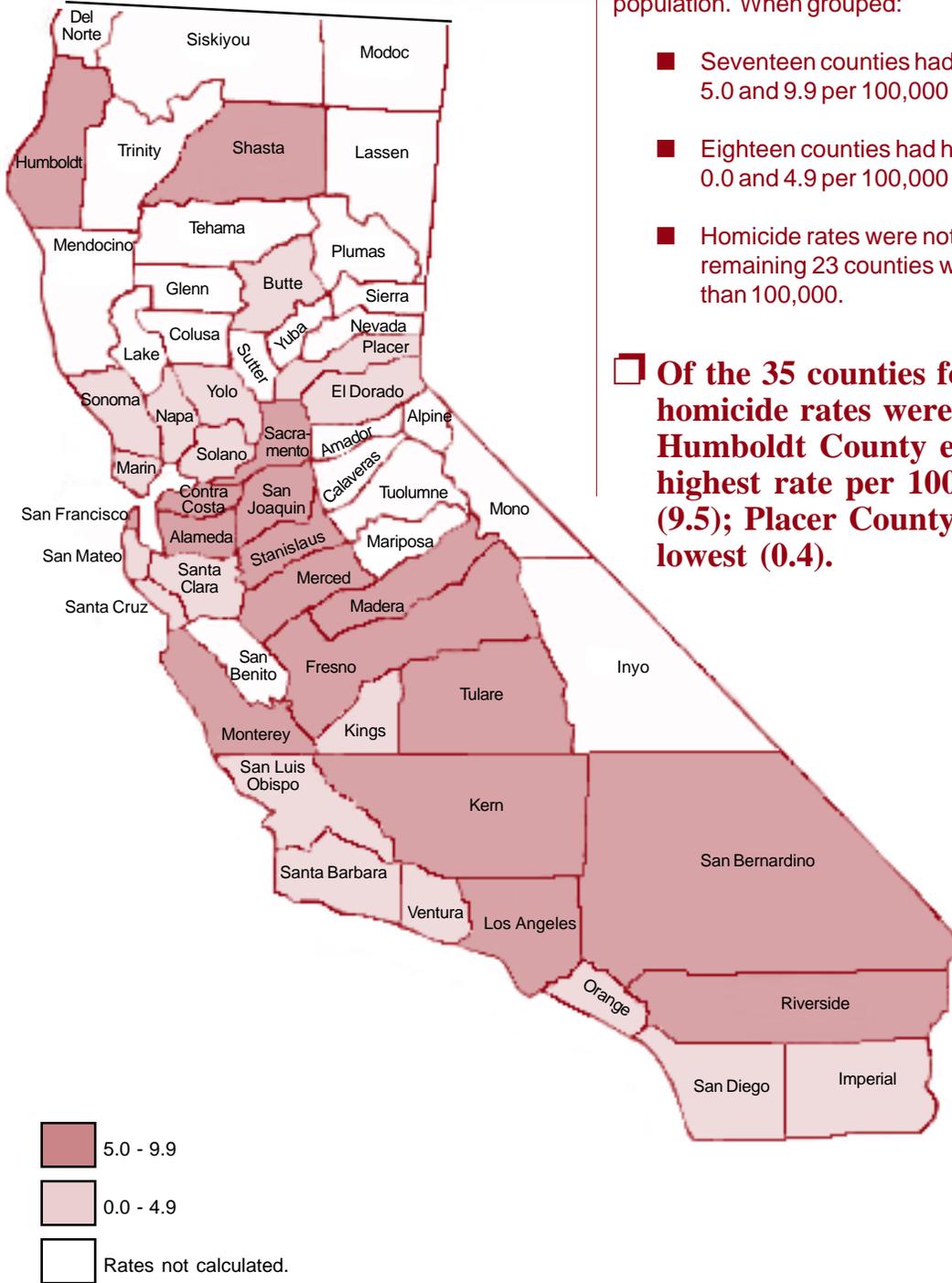
Chart 17
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1999
Age of Victim by Relationship of Victim to Offender



Source: Table 13.

□ **Regardless of age group, the largest proportion of homicide victims were killed by friends or acquaintances.**

Chart 18
HOMICIDE CRIMES, 1999
 County by Rate per 100,000 Population



In 1999, twelve of California's 58 counties exceeded the 1999 statewide homicide rate of 5.9 per 100,000 population. When grouped:

- Seventeen counties had homicide rates between 5.0 and 9.9 per 100,000 population.
- Eighteen counties had homicide rates between 0.0 and 4.9 per 100,000 population.
- Homicide rates were not computed for the remaining 23 counties with populations of less than 100,000.

□ **Of the 35 counties for which 1999 homicide rates were computed, Humboldt County experienced the highest rate per 100,000 population (9.5); Placer County experienced the lowest (0.4).**

Source: Table 14.